



BOROUGH OF TORQUAY



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1952



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ST. MARYCHURCH TOWN HALL,
TORQUAY.

*To the Worshipful the Mayor and to the Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Torquay.*

MR. MAYOR, MRS. COUNCILLOR PIDGEON AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1952, which is detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

The year was comparatively healthy and free from abnormal influences ; the incidence of infectious disease was light, diphtheria remained absent for the sixth consecutive year, and a review of the vital statistics shows no untoward feature. The quiet maintenance of health, however, does not make notable news ; and, in an age accustomed to, and craving for the dramatic, it is perhaps a little difficult to appreciate that these prosaic facts are of substantial value.

Preliminary steps have been taken to proceed with another stage in the big main drainage scheme which was begun before the war ; and this is a reminder of the importance of maintaining the highest standards in general sanitation and environmental hygiene. Just because these measures throughout the past century have been so successful, there is a danger that they may now be considered to be not very essential—the more so as they are expensive ; and indeed there are suggestions that a lowering of standards will not be harmful. This must be resolutely eschewed ; for there can be no deviation from the best without the risk of untoward developments and ultimately of inevitable dangers to the public health.

Housing has again made useful progress ; and towards the end of the year the one-thousandth post-war Council house was completed—while work on a further housing estate was well advanced. Together with private building, this should go far towards meeting the new housing requirements of the Borough, and enable the long-overdue consideration to be given to reconditioning and redevelopment of existing buildings in areas more centrally placed. The problem of the adequate repair of older property remains unsolved—and indeed unattacked, which is a matter of considerable and increasing regret.

The general routine of the Department has continued with accustomed efficiency, although it is not possible to give a vivid account of all the manifold activities.

In conclusion, it is with appreciation that I acknowledge the encouraging support of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and also the co-operation of the medical profession in the association and interchange of the daily round and common task. To the Staff is due great credit for their constant zeal and high standard of work, which enable them, despite the uneasy times, to maintain progress and keep the noiseless tenor of their way.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. V. A. SIMPSON.

STAFF

(a) Medical

Medical Officer of Health :

J. V. A. SIMPSON,

M.D.LOND., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.CAMB.

(b) Sanitary

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

G. J. LOVELESS, T.D., C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I.

District Sanitary Inspectors :

A. THOMPSON, C.R.S.I.

J. F. H. SMITH, C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food, R.S.I., Dip. R.I.P.H.H.
Cert. Lab. Technique, Exeter.

E. V. ROBERTS, C.R.S.I., Cert. Insp. Meat and Food R.S.I.

J. MARTIN, C.S.I.B., Dip. R.I.P.H.H.

(c) Other

Public Analyst :

*T. TICKLE, B.SC., F.I.C.

Chief Clerk :

S. E. R. AUTHERS

Clerks :

E. C. DOBLE

B. L. BROWN

Assistant to Sanitary Inspectors :

M. L. WHITE

Rodent Operatives :

W. LEE

J. BORLACE

* Part Time

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	6,244
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1952	49,270
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952) according to Rate Books	14,603
Rateable value (end of 1952)	£595,098
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (end of 1952) ...	£2,390

SOCIAL CONDITIONS,

*Including the chief Industries carried on in the Area and
the extent of Unemployment.*

Torquay is now a busy holiday resort as well as a residential town; and, with the increase in the number of persons receiving holidays with pay, the summer season is becoming even busier than formerly. This has its effect on unemployment which now shows a more marked seasonal variation. For several years before the war the average minimum of unemployed was about 800 and the maximum about 1,800: and the following shows the extent of unemployment in 1952:

MAXIMUM NO. UNEMPLOYED					
	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Total</i>
December, 1952 ...	791	458	28	21	1298
MINIMUM NO. UNEMPLOYED					
July, 1952 ...	267	74	—	3	344

The seasonal variation of unemployment continues, but the number of unemployed has risen progressively since the end of the war: and the following table shows the maximum number of unemployed in each year since 1945, with the number of men included in the total, shown in parenthesis:—

1945	148 (101)
1946	180 (133)
1947	429 (333)
1948	493 (344)
1949	921 (540)
1950	1,013 (608)
1951	1,018 (577)
1952	1,298 (791)

Possibly a proportion of the increase is due to a slackening of available work in the area; but some is also due to the migration from other Districts of families, who seem to show little thought either for available work or for possible accommodation. And this also intensifies the general housing difficulties.

The same trend occurred after the first world war and became more marked with the subsequent industrial depression.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1952,
*which relate to the net Births and Deaths after correction for inward
and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General.*

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	12.44
Still birth-rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	12.88
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	16.24
Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion (Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—			
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	...	0.00
Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—			
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	31.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	33.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	0.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	131
„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
„ Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)	...	...	7

*Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year
which has received or required special comment.*

During the year there has been nothing to report.

Population.

The preliminary return of the Census taken in 1951 shows that the population of Torquay was 53,216 ; of this number 22,899 were males and 30,317 were females.

The Registrar-General's estimate for the resident population at the middle of 1952 is 49,270 ; and this figure is used in calculating the appropriate statistical returns.

Births.

The number of live births registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 613, of which 328 were male and 285 female ; there were 567 legitimate and 46 illegitimate births. There were 8 stillbirths, 6 legitimate and 2 illegitimate.

The birth-rate was 12.4 per 1,000 population, compared with 15.3 for England and Wales, and 16.9 for the large towns ; the stillbirth-rate was 0.16 per 1,000 population, the corresponding rates for England and Wales and for the large towns being 0.35 and 0.43. The stillbirth-rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths was 12.9, compared with 22.6 for England and Wales, and 24.6 for the large towns.

(The large towns comprise 160 towns, each with a population exceeding 50,000 at the 1951 Census, and include Torquay.)

The proportion of illegitimate to total births in Torquay (after correction for transfers) was 7.7 per cent. in 1952 ; this figure had risen progressively from 6.4 per cent. in 1939 to a maximum of 17.7 per cent. in 1945, subsequently falling, and in 1950 returning to the pre-war level.

A comparability factor, to make adjustment for the age and sex distribution of the town, has this year been prepared by the Registrar-General for correcting the birth-rate; the factor is 1.04, and after multiplying the crude rate by this a corrected birth-rate of 12.94 is obtained.

Marriages.

The marriage-rate was 5.1 per 1,000 population compared with 5.9 in 1951, 5.3 in 1950, 5.1 in 1949, 5.7 in 1948, and 5.9 in 1947.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered during the year, corrected for transfers, is 800, of which 373 were males and 427 were females.

The crude death-rate was 16.24 per 1,000 population compared with 17.57 in 1951; the death-rate in 1952 for England and Wales was 11.3, and for the large towns 12.1.

In order to make adjustment for the age and sex distribution of Torquay, with its greater proportion of older people, the Registrar-General supplies an areal comparability factor (A.C.F.) with which to multiply the crude death-rate and so obtain an adjusted death-rate. The A.C.F. for Torquay is 0.69 and the adjusted death-rate is therefore 11.21.

The chief causes of death were as usual for Torquay:—Heart Disease, 266; Cancer, 131; and Vascular lesions of the nervous system, 154; which between them are responsible for two-thirds of the total deaths.

The death-rate from tuberculosis in Torquay was 0.35 per 1,000 population compared with 0.24 for England and Wales, and 0.28 for the large towns; the death-rate from pneumonia was 0.65 per 1,000 population compared with 0.47 for England and Wales and 0.52 for the large towns.

The causes of death are given in the accompanying Table A, supplied by the Registrar-General.

Table B is also included showing the age-distribution of total deaths, together with the deaths from the different causes: this table is compiled from the returns of the Local Registrar, and differs slightly from the list supplied by the Registrar-General who frequently obtains subsequent further information to assist in the more accurate classification.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality rate was 31.0 per 1,000 total live births, compared with a rate of 27.6 for England and Wales and 31.2 for the large towns; the death-rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births was 33.5, and the death-rate of illegitimate infants

per 1,000 illegitimate births was 0.00. The infant mortality rate in Torquay tends to fluctuate owing to the comparatively small numbers upon which it is calculated: thus the figures for the preceding five years, 1947-51 inclusive, were 27, 23, 30, 23, 26.

The actual number of deaths in 1952 of infants under 1 year of age was 19 (12 of these being under 4 weeks) and in 1951 was 16 (13 being under 4 weeks).

There was no maternal death during the year; the number of maternal deaths in each of the preceding five years, 1947-51, was 2, 0, 0, 1, 0.

TABLE A.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1952						Males	Females
All Causes						373	427
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	8	7
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	1	1
3.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	9	12
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	12	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	11
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	8
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	34	36
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	2	3
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	55	99
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	63	33
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	10	5
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	62	93
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	17	26
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	15	17
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	11	10
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	2	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	10	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	4	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	6	6
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	9	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	31	34
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	2	2
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	5	6
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	3	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—
Death of Infants { Total						13	6
under 1 year { Legitimate						13	6
{ Illegitimate						—	—
Deaths of Infants { Total						9	3
under 4 weeks { Legitimate						9	3
{ Illegitimate						—	—
Stillbirths { Total						4	4
{ Legitimate						3	3
{ Illegitimate						1	1

TABLE B.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1952 (Per Local Registrar).

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Net deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District.											
	All ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 55	55 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and over
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	15	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	2	6	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	6	7
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	5	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	2	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	69	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	15	23	23
15. Leukemia, aleukaemia	5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1
16. Diabetes	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	151	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	13	32	100
18. Coronary disease, angina	99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	23	33	35
19. Hypertension with heart disease	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	7
20. Other heart disease	147	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	14	26	105
21. Other circulatory disease	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	10	8	15
22. Influenza	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
23. Pneumonia	31	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	3	6	20
24. Bronchitis	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	6	8
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	2	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	7
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	7
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	84	10	4	1	2	1	1	-	6	10	13	36
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	2
34. All other accidents	11	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	3	-	1	2
35. Suicide	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	800	12	7	3	4	6	6	10	42	126	191	393

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. (i) *Full particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Authority* including their duties, are incorporated in the beginning of the Report.

Mrs. I. M. Gowman, Chief Clerk, resigned in February to set up house, and Mr. S. E. R. Authers, Chief Clerk of Paignton Public Health Department, was appointed to fill the vacancy as from 1st April. Miss L. M. Harris, Clerk, also resigned in February to get married, and Mr. B. L. Brown was appointed in her place.

2. *Nursing Homes.*

There were no changes in registration during the year, and the following is a summary of the Nursing Homes at the end of December :—

Number of Homes on the Register	...	...	11
Number of Maternity Beds	...	...	12
Number of Other Beds	...	...	90

3. *National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 47.*

If Action has been taken under this Section, a brief note of the circumstances of each case is requested. The note should include information as to the reason for the Council's action, period named in the Order of the Court, the type of accommodation to which the person was removed, the ultimate result of the Council's action and any other information on the case which it is considered might be of interest.

This Section relates to the removal to suitable premises of persons who

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions : and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves *and* are not receiving from other persons proper care or attention :

and makes the Councils of County Boroughs and County Districts the authorities for dealing with such cases.

To effect the removal the Medical Officer of Health for the district must certify in writing to the Council that he is satisfied, after thorough enquiry and consideration, that in the interest of any such person, or for preventing injury to health, or serious nuisance to other persons, it is necessary to remove any such person from the premises in which he is residing ; and the local authority may then apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order under the Section. Before an application can be made, seven clear days' notice must be given to the person concerned or to some person in charge of him, and to the persons managing the premises to which the removal is sought to be made.

When the application is made, it must be supported by all evidence of the allegations in the certificate; and the Court, if satisfied, may order the removal of the person concerned, by such officer of the local authority as may be specified, to a suitable hospital and may authorise the detention of the person concerned for a period not exceeding three months, subject to extension on further application. The person concerned by the Order, or any persons on his behalf, may apply to the Court at the expiration of six weeks from the making of the Order for its revocation.

On 1st September, 1951, an Amending Act came into force giving Local Authorities powers to deal expeditiously with certain cases of person in need of care and attention which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people. Where the Medical Officer of Health and another registered Medical Practitioner certify that, in the case of a person to whom Section 47 of the 1948 Act applies, an application (that he should be removed without delay) may be made to the appropriate Court or to a single Justice, without giving the seven clear days' notice required by the main Act. The application may be made by the Local Authority, or by the Medical Officer of Health where the Authority authorises him to make application, in cases to which the Amending Act applies. The order is made for a period not exceeding 3 weeks, and any further application extending this period has to be in accordance with the main provisions of the 1948 Act.

Your Medical Officer is authorised to make application in any case to which the Amending Act applies.

During the year it was not necessary to take action under either Act.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. *Water.*

In this report full details are given in connexion with the water supply, and the Borough Water Engineer, Mr. W. F. White, M.I.W.E., has kindly supplied the information under sub-headings (i) and (ii).

(i) *Whether the water supply has been satisfactory (a) in quality ; (b) in quantity.*

(a) Throughout the year the quality of the water has been maintained at its usual high standard, being pure and wholesome in character and suitable in every way for public supply purposes.

(b) There has been an ample quantity of water available for all purposes from the Corporation's four Impounding Reservoirs on Dartmoor, which have a storage capacity of 848 million gallons, or approximately 7 months supply at the present rate of consumption. Although Torquay and the surrounding district within the area of supply had an abnormal number of visitors during the summer season, it was not necessary to impose any restrictions on the use of water.

Fortunately, the construction of the Gallows Gate three million gallon reinforced concrete service reservoir was completed early in the year, thereby enabling the reservoir to be brought into use in April. This additional storage in Torquay, together with the new 18 inch Trunk Main, enabled the Undertaking to meet without difficulty the highest peak consumption on record, which occurred on the 23rd July and amounted to 5.26 million gallons per day.

(ii) *Where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and, where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply ; if so, how many and the results obtained ; the results of any chemical analyses.*

Both chemical and bacteriological examinations have been made of the raw and treated water. The whole of the supply is filtered, and owing to the soft character of the water it is hardened with lime, after which it is sterilised by the application of gaseous chlorine. The raw water, normally acid with a pH value in the region of 6.8, after treatment is raised to 9.2, which results in the consumers receiving a water on the alkaline side of neutrality.

The chlorine dosage has been increased to 1.0 part per million so as to obtain a chlorine residual in the water passing into distribution from the service reservoirs.

Analyses of the raw water are as follows :—

REPORTS BY THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES,
66 VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

1. SAMPLE 24.3.52. TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR (UNTREATED).

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies } developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	38 per ml.	46 per ml.	170 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aero-	<i>Present in</i>	<i>Absent from</i>	<i>Probable Number</i>
genes Reaction ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	100 ml.	10 ml.	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and very satisfactory bacterial quality for an untreated supply, since organisms of the Coli-aerogenes group are absent from 100 ml.

2. SAMPLE 24.3.52.

FERNWORTHY RESERVOIR (UNTREATED WATER).

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies } developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	26 per ml.	30 per ml.	80 per ml.
Presumptive Coli-aero-	<i>Present in</i>	<i>Absent from</i>	<i>Probable Number</i>
genes Reaction ...	100 ml.	50 ml.	1 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	100 ml.	50 ml.	1 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	100 ml.	10 ml.	

The sample has slight opalescence and deposit but the turbidity is not pronounced. Bacterial quality is very satisfactory for an untreated supply since organisms of the Coli-aerogenes group are confined to minimal number.

SAMPLE 13.8.52.

TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR.

(Raw water from the main feeding the pressure filter at Tottiford)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance : *Bright with a very slight flocculent deposit.

Colour ...	33	Turbidity (Silica Scale) ...	5
Reaction pH ...	6.9	Odour ...	Faintly Musty
Electric conductivity ...	70	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Trace
Chlorine present as Chloride	12	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	50
		Alkalinity as Calcium Car-	
		bonate ...	8
Hardness : Total ...	14	{ Carbonate 8 { Non-carbonate	6
		{ temporary { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.007	Residual Chlorine ...	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.10	Metals : Iron ...	0.25
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours		Manganese	Less than 0.03
at 27°C. ...	2.1	Other Metals ...	Absent

* Microscopical examination of the deposit, which is small in amount, shows vegetable debris, plankton life consists largely of Unicellula chlorophyceae, protococcus and scenedesmus. Diatoms were very scarce and no filament growths found. Motile protozoa; Chlamydomonas, Peridinium and a few Rotifera present.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.			2 days at 37°C.		3 days at 20°C.	
	1,500 per ml. <i>Present in</i>			2,500 per ml. <i>Absent from</i>		4,000 per ml. <i>Probable Number</i>	
Presumptive Coli-aero-							
genes Reaction	...	** 10 ml.		1 ml.		25 per 100 ml.	
Bact. coli (Type I)	...	200 ml.		10 ml.		8 per 100 ml.	
Cl. welchii Reaction	...	100 ml.		10 ml.			

** False presumptive reaction.

This sample is bright in appearance and the amount of matter in suspension is not large, the turbidity being appreciable but not marked. The water is just on the acid side of neutrality; it is very soft in character and the alkalinity is low. Treatment should therefore incorporate measures to restrain corrosive action. The content of mineral constituents is small and the water is free from metals apart from minute traces of iron and manganese. Colour is very distinct though not pronounced and organic impurity relates largely to this feature. The bacterial content is large but the organisms of the Coli-aerogenes group, including Bact. coli, which relate to contamination by matters of excremental origin, are confined to a very moderate number.

SAMPLE 13.8.53.

TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR.

TORQUAY.

(Filtered water—before chlorination and hardening—from pressure filters at Tottiford)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: *Bright with a very slight flocculent deposit.

Colour	...	22	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	...	1.0
Reaction pH	...	6.5	Odour	...	Faintly Musty
Electric conductivity	...	65	Free Carbon Dioxide	...	3
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	11	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	...	45
			Alkalinity as Calcium Car-		
			bonate	...	7
Hardness: Total	...	14	{ Carbonate 7 {	Non-carbonate 7	
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	0.0	temporary	permanent	
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	0.007	Nitrite Nitrogen	...	Less than 0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	0.056	Residual Chlorine	...	Absent
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours			Metals: Iron	...	0.22
at 27°C.	...	1.0	Other metals	...	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.			2 days at 37°C.		3 days at 20°C.	
	180 per ml. <i>Present in</i>			500 per ml. <i>Absent from</i>		800 per ml. <i>Probable Number</i>	
Presumptive Coli-aero-							
genes Reaction	...	50 ml.		20 ml.		3 per 100 ml.	
Bact. coli (Type I)	...	50 ml.		20 ml.		3 per 100 ml.	
Cl. welchii Reaction	...	— ml.		100 ml.			

* Microscopical Examination:—The deposit was very small in amount but contained the same types of organisms found in unfiltered water, i.e. Chlorophyceae—predominantly protococcus and scenedesmus: Protozoa—predominantly chlamydomonas and peridinium.

The sample is bright in appearance and carried only a trace of matter in suspension. The water is slightly acid in reaction, very soft in character and has a low content of alkalinity. Compared with the raw supply the colour is appreciably reduced but it remains noticeable. Organic quality is otherwise satisfactory, the water is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron and there is also a marked reduction in the bacterial content. Filtration has therefore been reasonably efficient.

SAMPLE 6.11.52.

TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR.

TORQUAY.

(Raw water from the main feeding the pressure filters at Tottiford)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance : Faint opalescence with a slight flocculent deposit of mineral and organic debris containing numerous chlorophyceae together with a few protozoa.

Colour	25	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	4
Reaction pH	6.7	Odour	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	80	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Trace
Chlorine present as Chloride	11	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	55
		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	5
Hardness : Total	15	Carbonate 5 { Non-carbonate 10	
		temporary { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.000	Residual Chlorine	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.11	Metals : Iron	0.18
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	2.4	Manganese	0.04
		Other Metals	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies } developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	1 per ml.	150 per ml.	240 per ml.
	<i>Present in</i>	<i>Absent from</i>	<i>Probable Number</i>
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction ...	*10 ml.	1 ml.	35 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	10 ml.	1 ml.	25 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	100 ml.	10 ml.	

* False presumptive reaction.

This sample shows slight opalescence and carries a trace of matter in suspension, the turbidity being noticeable but not marked. The water is just on the acid side of neutrality, it is extremely soft in character and has a very low content of alkalinity ; corrosive activity by the water would therefore be expected and treatment is required to restrain such action. The water has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from minute traces of iron and manganese. It shows noticeable but not pronounced colour and it is of satisfactory organic quality for a surface supply. Bacterial impurity indicative of contamination by matters of excremental origin is confined to the presence of Bact. coli in a very moderate number and to the Cl. welchii reaction in 100 ml.

SAMPLE 6.11.52.

TRENCHFORD RESERVOIR.

TORQUAY.

(Filtered water—before chlorination and hardening—from pressure filters at Tottiford)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance: Bright with a few particles of amorphous mineral and organic débris together with chlorophyceae.

Colour	...	...	25	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Less than 1
Reaction pH	...	...	6.5	Odour	...
Electric conductivity	...	...	70	Free Carbon Dioxide	Trace
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	12	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	50
				Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...
Hardness : Total	...	...	20	Carbonate temporary	5
				Non-carbonate permanent	15
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	0.000	Residual Chlorine	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	0.11	Metals : Iron	0.16
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	...	...	2.1	Other metals	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies } developing on Agar }		1 day at 37°C. 1 per ml. <i>Present in</i>	2 days at 37°C. 120 per ml. <i>Absent from</i>	3 days at 20°C. 170 per ml. <i>Probable Number</i>
Presumptive Coli-aero-				
genes Reaction	...	*10 ml.	1 ml.	35 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I)	...	100 ml.	50 ml.	1 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	...	— ml.	100 ml.	

* Intermediate Type I

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance since it carries only a few particles of matter in suspension. The water is slightly acid in reaction, very soft in character and has a low content of alkalinity. It has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. Compared with the raw water, colour is unchanged and there is little change in the content of the organic matter though the amount of organic impurity is not excessive. Bacterial quality shows improvement inasmuch as the moderate numbers of Bact. coli have been reduced and the Cl. welchii reaction eliminated. Filtration has been efficient in delivering water of a high standard of clarity.

Comprehensive analyses of the treated water going into supply are as follows :—

SAMPLE 24.3.52.

CHAPEL HILL RESERVOIR.

TORQUAY.

(Treated water—Filtered, hardened and chlorinated)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance : Bright with a very slight yellow-brown deposit of iron oxide and organic débris.

Colour	13	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Less than 3
Reaction pH	7.7	Odour	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	95	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Trace
Chlorine present as Chloride	14	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	65
		Alkalinity as Calcium Car-	
		bonate	10
Hardness : Total	25	{ Carbonate 10 { Non-carbonate	15
		{ temporary { permanent	
Nitrate Nitrogen	1.0	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	0.000	Residual Chlorine ...	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	0.053	Metals : Iron	0.24
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours		Manganese	0.06
at 27°C.	0.90	Other Metals ...	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies } developing on Agar }	1 day at 37°C. 0 per ml. <i>Present in</i>	2 days at 37°C. 3 per ml. <i>Absent from</i>	3 days at 20°C. 27 per ml. <i>Probable Number</i>
Presumptive Coli-aero-			
genes Reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance since it carries only a trace of matter in suspension. The water is very soft in character and has a low content of alkalinity but it is on the alkaline side of neutrality. It has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution, and it is free from metals apart from a trace of iron and a negligible trace of manganese. It shows only a trace of colour, is of satisfactory organic quality, and of a high standard of bacterial purity.

The water is considered pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

SAMPLE 18.12.52.

WARBERRY RESERVOIR.

TORQUAY.

(Treated water—Filtered, hardened and chlorinated)

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Appearance : Bright with a few particles of mineral and organic débris together with a few chlorophyceae.

Colour	8	Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Less than 3
Reaction pH	8.3	Odour	Nil
Electric conductivity ...	110	Free Carbon Dioxide ...	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	15	Total solids, dried at 180°C.	75
		Alkalinity as Calcium Car-	
		bonate	15

Hardness : Total ...	...	30	{ Carbonate 15 { Non-carbonate	
			{ temporary { permanent	15
Nitrate Nitrogen ...	...	1.2	Nitrite Nitrogen ...	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen ...	...	0.017	Residual Chlorine ...	...
Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	...	0.049	Metals : Iron ...	...
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours			Other metals ...	Absent
at 27°C. ...	...	1.2		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies } developing on Agar }	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
	0 per ml. <i>Present in</i>	0 per ml. <i>Absent from</i>	0 per ml. <i>Probable Number</i>
Presumptive Coli-aero-			
genes Reaction ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type I) ...	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction ...	— ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, very faintly alkaline in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very soft in character and has a comparatively low content of mineral constituents in solution. It is free from noticeable colour, of very satisfactory organic quality, and of the highest standard of bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES,
for The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Samples are also taken regularly from a variety of sources within the Borough, such as storage reservoirs, drinking fountains, taps in private houses, dairies, schools, etc. 96 such samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, and in 77 the results were good, viz. :—

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE,
EXETER.

“ Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml.=nil. This sample is satisfactory bacteriologically.”

In 16 of the remaining samples the probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. was less than 10, and in the other 3 samples more than 10 ; and in 3 of these cases Bact. coli of the faecal type was detected.

(iii) *Where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and the number and result of analyses.*

In all the analyses no trace of metals was found except a minute trace of iron. The pH is maintained at the level mentioned previously to avoid action on lead.

(iv) *Action in respect of any form of contamination.*

No special action has been required.

(v) *Particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population supply from public water mains (a) direct to the houses ; (b) by means of standpipes.*

(a) The proportion of dwelling houses with a supply from public water mains direct to the houses is 98.8 per cent, and the proportion of the population thus supplied is 98.5 per cent.

(b) The proportion of dwelling houses supplied by means of standpipes is 1.2 per cent, the proportion of the population thus supplied being 1.5 per cent.

(vi) *Mineral Spring.*

7 samples taken from the mineral spring in Meadfoot Sea Road were submitted for bacteriological examination. (This spring is at present used to supply a public drinking fountain.) 2 samples gave satisfactory results, viz. : probable number of Coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml.—nil. In the case of the 5 other samples examination showed that the probable number of Coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. ranged from 5 to 35. Bact. Coli of the faecal type was detected in 1 of these samples.

(vii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*

The Borough Engineer, Mr. P. W. Ladmore, M.Inst.C.E., has kindly given the following details in connexion with drainage, sewerage and public cleansing.

(a) Foul and surface water sewers have been laid to the first stage of the Sherwell Valley Housing Estate (about 30 acres—350 houses).

(b) The only other new sewerage work which has been carried out during 1952, which is an extension to the existing system, is the commencement of the Sherwell Valley Sewer from Chelston Park to the head of Sherwell Valley Road. The surface water sewer will serve houses on the Sherwell Valley Estate and also the land at present undeveloped in the higher reaches of Sherwell Valley.

(c) Work has proceeded during the year on the preparation of a scheme for improving the drainage of Upton Valley and the approval of the Ministry of Local Government and Housing is awaited.

(viii) *Closet Accommodation.*

No cases of conversion are known during the year under review.

(ix) *Public Cleansing.*

(a) During the year the Council resolved to cleanse certain unadopted streets in the Borough.

(b) The completion of the Marldon Road Housing Estate has entailed an increase in cleansing and refuse collection rounds.

(c) No material change has taken place in Cesspool cleansing.

(x) *Salvage.*

The collection and recovery of salvable material continue, and the following are the details of the amounts of salvage recovered :

			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>
Paper and Cardboard	...	...	383	3
Metal : ferrous	...	...	78	9½
Metal : non-ferrous	...	...	25	16
Textiles	...	...	8	4¼
String	...	...	—	9¼
Rubber	...	...	—	10
Kitchen Waste	...	...	836	18½
Bones	...	...	—	5½
Bottles and Jars	...	...	4,005 doz.	
Number of Hats	...	...	214	
Oil	...	...	518 galls.	
Bedrails	...	...	262 rails	
Batteries	...	...	2 only	

2. *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*

The inspection of all districts in the Borough has been very efficiently carried out during the year under your Chief Sanitary Inspector who gives these details :

The co-operation and work of the individual inspectors have been excellent ; and the high standard in all the wide range of duties reflects the greatest credit on their diligence and ability.

In addition to their normal duties, your Sanitary Inspectors have, since November, also been carrying out the work of the Sanitary Inspector of the adjoining area of Teignmouth during his absence (which is expected to be for several months) on sick leave.

Lynmouth Flood Disaster.

On 15th August Lynmouth was almost completely destroyed by a flood following a rainfall of 9 inches in the area ; 42 houses were destroyed and most of the other premises severely damaged, and the entire population was temporarily evacuated. Requests were received for help to deal with the inspection of foodstuffs ; and two of your District Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. J. F. H. Smith and Mr. E. V. Roberts, volunteered for service and were at Lynmouth from 19th to 28th August inclusive. They inspected all the foodstuffs recovered from the flooded or damaged premises and condemned about 9½ tons ; only the tinned goods were capable of being utilised. A detailed report of their work was submitted to the Medical Officer of Health, Lynmouth.

The following inspections were carried out in Torquay :—

<i>Dwelling Houses</i>			<i>Inspections</i>
Under Public Health Acts	...	...	146
Under Housing Acts	...	...	677
Overcrowding cases found	...	...	10
Verminous Premises treated	...	...	60
New Houses—habitation certificates	...	...	83
Corporation Houses	...	...	124

<i>General Public Health</i>					<i>Inspections</i>
Drains and sewers :					
Inspected	...	...	...	...	332
Tests applied	...	...	...	...	284
Drains repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	95
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	18
Stables	...	...	...	...	2
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	20
Open Spaces	...	...	...	...	50
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	36
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	10
Factories	...	...	...	...	176
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	1
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	4
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	9
Cinemas, Dance Halls	...	...	...	...	3
Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	2
Shops—Shops Act	...	...	...	...	96
Schools	...	...	...	...	5
Offices	...	...	...	...	1
Ships	...	...	...	...	119
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	19
Offensive Accumulations Removed	...	...	...	...	11
Tips	...	...	...	...	1
<i>Water</i>					
Water Supply—Visits	...	...	...	...	123
Samples	...	...	...	...	96
Swimming Baths—Visits	...	...	...	...	97
Samples	...	...	...	...	140
Chlorine Tests	...	...	...	...	95
<i>Meat and Food</i>					
Meat Shops, Stalls, etc.	...	...	...	...	159
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	540
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	58
Dairies	...	...	...	...	258
Samples—Public Health Laboratory Service	...	...	...	...	123
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	48
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	49
Hotels	...	...	...	...	232
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	154
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	24
Fish Quay	...	...	...	...	103
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	6
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	53
Grocers	...	...	...	...	287
Restaurants, Cafés, Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	94
Cooked Meat Premises	...	...	...	...	18
Houses—food complaints	...	...	...	...	14
<i>Miscellaneous</i>					
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	574
Other visits	...	...	...	...	806
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	75

NOTICES SERVED.

	Verbal		Written		Statutory		Total	
	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with
Public Health Act ...	199	139	47	36	1	1	247	176
Housing Act ...	10	5	65	113	8	12	83	130
Factories Act ...	25	6	5	1	—	—	30	7
Food and Drugs Act ...	162	95	11	11	—	—	173	106
TOTALS ...	396	245	128	161	9	13	533	419

(Note : Some of the notices complied with were outstanding from the previous year.)

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Co-operation has been maintained with H.M. Inspector of Factories in the exercise of the provisions of this Act ; any contraventions of those sections under the control of H.M. Inspector which are noticed by your Sanitary Inspectors are notified and this action is reciprocated.

The accompanying tables give the details of the inspections and the defects found—and of the Outworkers with the type of work undertaken.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

(Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspec- tions (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	60	32	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	2	245	144	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority †(excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...		305	176	5	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	11	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	1	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—						
(a) Insufficient	9	4	1	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	10	4	—	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	11	1	—	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	38	5	29	—	—
TOTAL	60	59	7	29	5	—

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Section 110			Section 111		
		No. of out- workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some Premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecu- tions (8)
Wearing { Making, etc.	13	14					
apparel { Cleaning and washing	14	—					
Basket making	40	15					
Chocolates and sweetmeats ...	41	—					
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc. ...	42	—					
Textile weaving	43						
Lampshades	44	—					
TOTAL	70	29	—	—	—	—	—

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

This Act requires (a) the registration of premises where filling materials are used in the manufacture of bedding, toys, carriages and other articles of upholstery (but this does not apply to reconditioning or remaking); and (b) the licensing of premises where rag flock is manufactured or stored for distribution to registered premises.

Registration should be accorded unconditionally if the premises are used for the purpose stated and the fee is paid; licences should be granted after an officer has inspected and reported on the premises, which are to have such appliances as may be necessary to enable clean rag flock to be manufactured, and licences can only be refused on limited grounds.

The necessary records have to be kept on registered and on licensed premises in the form prescribed; and there are powers of entry, of inspection and of sampling.

The sale of articles with unclean materials is forbidden, although this does not apply to second-hand articles; the word "clean" means compliance with standards laid down by regulations. And the filling materials are defined as rag flock, cotton flock, unwoven wool, jute, unwoven synthetic fibres, hair, feathers, down, kapok, cor fibre, seaweed, straw and such other materials as may be prescribed.

Regulations have so far been made on the type of records, the right to have samples tested, and the standards of cleanliness; the Minister has also prescribed certain analysts to whom samples must be sent for testing.

This Act is of great importance and it is hoped that high standards will be everywhere maintained in the cleanliness of filling materials; and your Inspectors will do all that they can to encourage the co-operation of manufacturers and traders, with whom they will discuss, and help in, any difficulties that may arise.

The following table gives the details about registration and licences :—

No. of applications for registration	...	...	5
No. of premises registered	...	...	5
No. of applications for licences to store rag flock			1
No. of licences issued	...	...	1

Five samples of filling materials were obtained during the year, and the results are as follows :—

<i>Type of Material</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>
3 Samples Rag Flock	3
1 Sample Woollen Felt Mixture	1
1 Sample Woollen Felt	1

Shops Act, 1950.

This was mainly a consolidating act and there were no significant changes in the law. The duties, so far as public health is concerned, are connected with the maintenance of suitable and sufficient means of ventilation, of reasonable temperature, of lighting, of sanitary accommodation and of the provision of washing facilities.

During the year 5 contraventions of these sections were discovered :—

Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation ...	...	2
No heating facilities ...	...	1
Insufficient ventilation ...	...	1
Insufficient Washing Facilities ...	...	1

And all were remedied by informal action. No exemptions were granted.

In addition to these arrangements for health and comfort, your Sanitary Inspectors are also responsible for the administration of the other provisions of the Act ; these are not really Public Health matters and include hours of closing, conditions of employment, provisions affecting young persons under 18, Sunday employment and Sunday trading. Copies of a summary of the various enactments have been distributed on the visit of your Sanitary Inspectors, and copies of a schedule have also been distributed showing the provisions of the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938 ; these are especially important for hotels and places of public entertainment, whose owners have the option to apply either this Act or Part I of the Shops Act. The requirements include the permitted weekly hours of employment, overtime, intervals for meals and rest, half-holidays, night and Sunday employment, and the exhibition of Notice C.

In this connexion a number of enquiries have been received from young persons and parents, and also from employers : and the necessary help and advice have been given. In addition, there is close co-operation with the Youth Employment Officer of the Ministry of Labour in dealing with cases brought to his notice.

During the year a total of 101 special visits and investigations were made.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

This Act came into force on 1st April, 1952, after which it was necessary for shops selling pet animals to be licensed by the Local Authority. Licences are granted subject to certain provisions to ensure that the accommodation shall be suitable in respect of size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness, that suitable food and drink and care of the animals are provided, and that no animal is displayed in such position as to expose it to interference or annoyance by persons or animals, that entrance and exit from the shop are not rendered difficult in case of emergency, and that there are suitable measures for fire prevention and control.

The administration of the Act is carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors, and the following shows the number of applications for licences :—

Number of applications for licences	...	...	8
Number of licences granted	...	...	6

Of the two applications not granted, one was considered not to be a pet shop, and the other is held in abeyance until the premises have been made reasonably fireproof.

The premises licensed have been regularly inspected during the year.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

(a) Public Swimming Baths.

The Corporation Swimming Baths are visited weekly and samples of water are taken from both the shallow end and the deep end. A test to determine the adequacy of the chlorine content is also made at each visit.

90 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, the results being as follows :—

			<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deep end	...	...	38	7	45
Shallow end	...	...	45	—	45
			—	—	—
			83	7	90
			==	==	==

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples the examinations showed that the probable number of *Coli-aerogenes* organisms per 100 ml. ranged from 2 to 14, and in four cases *Bact. coli* of the faecal type was detected.

(b) Privately-owned Swimming Baths.

Samples were also taken from a private swimming bath in which the water is chlorinated although a mechanical system of chlorination is not available.

Of 50 samples taken, 28 were satisfactory, and 22 were unsatisfactory. In the case of the unsatisfactory samples the examinations showed that the probable number of *Coli-aerogenes* organisms per 100 ml. ranged from 2 to 600, and in 17 cases *Bact. coli* of the faecal type was detected. It was hoped that a mechanical chlorine injector would be installed in these swimming baths, but this has not yet been obtained.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

The number of houses infested during the year was :

(a) Council houses	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Other houses ...	...	...	...	...	3

The number of houses disinfested was :

(a) Council houses	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Other houses ...	...	...	...	...	3

It is again encouraging to note that the incidence of bed-bugs is the lowest on record, and for the second consecutive year no Council house was reported to be infested ; for this is mainly the result of the scheme which has been carefully followed since well before the war. Under this arrangement, notice is obtained before the transfer of tenants to Council houses, so that your Sanitary Inspectors can visit and inspect prior to removal ; any belongings of the tenant found to be verminous are dealt with before the transfer is effected.

Measures against Rodents.

This work has been carried out, on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, under your Chief Sanitary Inspector, who gives the following details :—

The Local Authority, in order to qualify for the grant towards expenditure, has maintained an adequate organisation for the effective control of rodents. No changes were made in the staffing arrangements, two whole-time operatives being employed.

One sewer treatment was completed during the year and a further treatment commenced and it is anticipated that this latter treatment will be finished early in the coming year. Records indicate that these treatments have been successful ; 382 man-holes were baited, showing for the first time, an absence of complete pre-bait takes, 206 partial takes and 176 no takes.

In surface control 686 treatments were made to private premises and 276 to business premises. The co-operation of owners and occupiers has proved most helpful, and several premises have been rat-proofed after successful treatments. The education of staff in rodent control measures of one large establishment has reduced the demands made on the rodent operatives ; although the work is supervised by the Local Authority.

In farms, smallholdings and piggeries the preliminary survey is the duty of the Local Authority, as are also the service of notices the supervision of any treatment made, and the collection of the cost of the work. Fourteen such premises are being dealt with, and the work is proceeding satisfactorily.

RODENT CONTROL

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses</i>	<i>Agri- cultural</i>	<i>All other (including business premises)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	45	13,429	42	2,529	16,045
Number of properties inspected by the L.A. during 1952 as a result of (a) notification, (b) survey or otherwise.	(a) 10	267	3	97	377
	(b) 7	224	—	34	265
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats.	Major 2	11	1	7	21
	Minor 14	226	2	77	319
Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice.	—	13	—	13	26
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	16	250	—	97	363
Number of notices served under Sect. 4 :					
(1) Treatment ...	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural works (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4.	—	—	—	—	—
Legal Proceedings ...	—	—	—	—	—

Number of "block" control schemes carried out ... Nil

SECTION D

HOUSING

The following is the table of information required :—

1. *Inspection of Dwelling houses during the Year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	169
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	761
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	112

3. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of Defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	163
---	-----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	8
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after formal notice :	
(a) By owners ...	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	3
(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners ...	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	—

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | | |
|---|--------|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements, or underground rooms
in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | — |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in
respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the
tenement or room having been rendered fit | | — |

4. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding :—*

During the year little overcrowding has been revealed by the day to day work and of 18 complaints, only 10 cases were found to be overcrowded within the legal definition. There must, of course, be other cases which only a detailed survey would bring to light, but generally speaking the end of this longstanding problem may now be said to be in sight. It is feared, however, that there will inevitably be some cases of overcrowding. These occur when two or even three related families live together in overcrowded conditions in the same house ; no attempt is made to secure other accommodation and the families appear to be quite satisfied with a communal way of life and a subsequent saving in rent.

New Houses.

The following table shows the progress in the erection of new Council houses :—

NEW COUNCIL HOUSES COMPLETED SINCE THE WAR

	PERMANENT															TEMPORARY		
																CADE- WELL	HAPPA- WAY	
	WATCOMBE						COOMBE PAFFORD		STARPITTEN		MARLDON							
	3 bed- room houses	4 bed- room houses	4 bed- room houses	3 bed- room flats over shops	3 bed- room houses	4 bed- room houses	2 bed- room bunga- lows	3 bed- room houses	Old Peoples Bungalows		2 bed- room bunga- lows	3 bed- room bunga- lows	2 bed- room houses	3 bed- room houses				
									1 bed- room	2 bed- room								
1946	97	40						38										137
1947		103	22					74	2	2	8							183
1948			88	14														188
1949			4					146	2	4		10						156
1950					6	4		14								22		62
1951							7						2			158		167
1952													4	10	4	6	103	127
TOTAL	97	143	114	14	6	4	6	272	4	6	8	10	4	6	10	6	283	1000

The smaller figure of Council houses completed during the year is accounted for by a large percentage of the labour force being engaged in the development of the Sherwell Valley Estate, and although 162 houses were in varying stages of erection by the end of the year, none was actually completed. The Marlton Estate was completed and the last house erected on this project brought the number of houses, both permanent and temporary, constructed by the Local Authority since the war to exactly 1,000.

The number of houses erected privately during the year was 83. In addition, since the end of the war, 52 war-damaged houses have been rebuilt, of which 46 were private houses and 6 were Council houses.

As an interesting comparison, the number of houses erected during the 20 years between the wars, 1919–1938, was 3,525 by private builders and 637 by the Local Authority.

Requisitioned Premises.

The policy of releasing properties was continued during the year and 12 such houses were returned to their owners: and at the end of 1952 there were only 2 houses held under requisition by which accommodation was provided for 4 families.

Housing Defects.

Progress has again been made in the repair of private property, but only in the face of ever-increasing resistance on the part of the owners. On account of the continuation of controlled rents many of these owners are now in such financially straitened circumstances that, instead of being able to carry out regular maintenance of their properties from economic rentals, they are forced to lessen their already decreasing capital to execute even the most urgent repairs. This resistance has been demonstrated by the fact that in three instances during the year the Local Authority was obliged to carry out essential repairs in default of the owners and subsequently to recover the expenses; whereas previously it had usually been possible to persuade reluctant owners to accept their legal responsibilities.

The Sanitary Inspectors Association, which is acutely aware of these conditions, passed a resolution at their last annual conference, that a memorandum be sent urging the Government to seek an equitable solution of the problem as soon as possible. It is now generally realised throughout the country that the number of old, but not slum, houses falling into decay through the continued operation of the Rents Restriction Acts is roughly equal to the number of new houses being erected at immense cost to the country's economy; and thus, in effect, some of the real progress in housing is being nullified.

In connexion with the general housing position there are three essential factors upon which any future improvement intimately depends. First there is the treatment and cure of the creeping paralysis due to Rent Restriction ; and this should be energetically dealt with before the atrophy becomes permanent and irremediable. Then some inducement should be given for owners, not only to maintain essential repairs, but also to improve the amenities of the property, where this is required, by the installation in gradual stages of such facilities as a bath, washbasin, larder and the like.

Finally, apart from self-ownership which is the ideal, the maintenance and preservation of existing—indeed of all—property require a good relationship between landlord and tenant. Those engaged in housing work observe far too often an apparent ill-feeling which certain types of tenants seem to harbour against their landlords ; such tenants disdain to carry out the most trivial repairs themselves, yet eagerly lodge complaints with the Public Health Department, without in many cases having first informed the landlord. There are good and bad on both sides, but surely in the interests of all concerned (and in this the whole country is included) the relationship between tenant and landlord generally should be on a more tolerant basis ; and a willingness to work together would do much to arrest the decay in existing houses to which reference has been made.

In the meantime, routine inspections under the Housing Act, 1936, are still in abeyance, and the work carried out during the year, which was restricted to essential repairs only, was generally the result of complaints by tenants ; the number of such houses rendered fit for habitation was 175.

Closure of unfit dwellings.

As the demand for housing accommodation eases it has been found possible to close certain premises and rooms for human habitation, by the acceptance of voluntary undertakings, as follows :—

18 Melville Lane ;
20 Melville Lane ;
Hillside Cottage, Melville Lane ;

These properties form part of the proposed Melville Lane Clearance Area with which it is hoped to proceed as soon as opportunity allows.

Voluntary undertakings were also accepted in respect of the following properties which became vacant through removal or death of the occupants :—

15 Melville Lane ;
17 Melville Lane ;
Cottage rear of 211/213 Union Street.

Underground Room Regulations.

Two undertakings were obtained during the year, as follow :—

Basement, 45 Stentifords Hill Road ;
Basement, 334 Teignmouth Road.

A voluntary undertaking was also accepted in respect of the following property which became vacant through removal of the occupants :—

Basement, 13a Queen Street.

Voluntary Undertakings previously obtained became effective during the year upon the rehousing of the occupiers as follows :—

Basement, 3 Alexandra Road.

Housing Act, 1949. Improvement Grants.

One application for an improvement grant under the above Act was received, but was refused.

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

*A. Milk Supply.**(i) Source of Supply.*

The main source of supply of raw milk is from farms within a 15 mile radius of the Borough. A considerable amount of pasteurised milk is also supplied to local distributors from a large Dairy Depot at Totnes.

(ii) Local Producers.

At the end of the year there were 15 Dairy Farms within the Borough. Five of these possess Tuberculin Tested herds, two Accredited herds, the remainder having no special designation. The non-designated farms are visited regularly by your Sanitary Inspectors and occasional samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination; nine such samples were obtained during the year, eight of which were satisfactory and one unsatisfactory. A total of 58 inspections was made.

(iii) Dairies and Distributors.

11 premises are registered as dairies and 36 persons are registered as distributors of milk. All premises used for the storage, treatment and sale of milk are inspected regularly, and in every case comply with the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. 258 inspections were made during the year.

(iv) Special Designations.

The following licences were issued during the year :—

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of Special Designation " Accredited "	1
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested "	32
Dealer's Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Tuberculin Tested "	1
Pasteuriser's Licences	4
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Pasteurised "	32
Dealer's Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation " Pasteurised "	1

(v) Heat-treated Milk.

There are four licensed Pasteurising Establishments, one additional Pasteuriser's Licence being issued during the year; three are plants operating the Holder method (in 100 Gallon Batch Pasteurisers) and one is a high temperature short time plant. Regular supervision of all these plants is maintained by your Sanitary Inspectors and samples of milk are taken every fortnight from each plant. A total of 89 samples gave the following results :—

			<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Void</i>
Phosphatase test	...	...	85	4	—
Methylene Blue reduction test	...		73	—	16*

* The regulations state that on arrival at the laboratory the samples of milk shall be removed from the insulated container and kept at atmospheric shade temperature until the test is begun. If at any time the atmospheric shade temperature in the immediate vicinity of the samples, as indicated by the maximum thermometer adjusted to below 65 F. at 9 a.m. on each day of sampling, has exceeded 65 F., the test shall be void.

(vi) *Sterility Tests.*

13 samples were obtained from the four Pasteurising Establishments, with the following results :—

				<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Fairly Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Churns	...	...	...	2	—	4
Bottles	...	...	...	1	2	4

These tests, although helpful in a general way, are rather empirical in nature and cannot be taken as an absolute guide ; they should be interpreted in conjunction with, and as supplementary to, the results of the general inspections of the premises and equipment.

(vii) *Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, Section 20.*

This section refers to the spread of infection by milk ; and under it the Medical Officer of Health has power to prohibit the milk from being sold or used until it is heat-treated, if he has evidence, or reasonable grounds for suspecting, that the consumption of this milk may give rise to disease in any person, or that the milk itself is infected.

No action was necessary under this section during the year.

B. Meat and Other Foods.

At the beginning of the War the five private slaughterhouses in Torquay were closed and killing was concentrated at a private slaughterhouse requisitioned by the Ministry of Food in Parkfield Road. Slaughtering is carried out on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays : and the “ carry-over ” on Saturdays and Sundays. All animals killed are inspected in accordance with Memorandum 62/Food, together with additional instructions such as for *cysticercus bovis* ; and your Sanitary Inspectors are responsible for this work.

Conditions at the abattoir are substantially the same. The general equipment, ropes, hooks, hanging rails, etc., require thorough overhaul and in many cases complete renewal ; and much of the equipment is incapable of being adequately cleansed. In addition your Inspectors are still without washing facilities : and as they are frequently handling diseased meat it is essential that they should be provided with hot and cold water washing facilities, and with the means for sterilising knives and other equipment.

Reference has repeatedly been made to the unsuitable premises and unsatisfactory conditions ; but there are indications that consideration is being given to the proper siting and inauguration of new abattoirs throughout the whole country, which will eventually bring about a vast improvement. And, although further delays must now be inevitable under the present increasing restrictions, it is to be hoped that the gleam of the ultimate ideal will not be lost.

(i) *Inspection of Meat.*

The following table gives the details of the inspections :—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle, exclud- ing Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed (if known)	1715	807	560	8479	486
Number inspected	1715	807	560	8479	486
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	4	—	12	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	483	452	5	1576	95
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	28.2	56.5	0.89	18.7	19.9
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	4	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	116	152	2	—	43
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	6.9	19.3	0.54	—	8.6

(Total weight of meat condemned : 53,807½ lbs.)

DISEASED OR UNSOUND MEAT DESTROYED

Organs, etc. Destroyed	DISEASES													Totals
	Tuberculosis	Cysticercus Bovis	Actinomycosis	Oedema Emphysema	Pyæmia Septicaemia	Cysts Tumours	Flukes. Cirrhosis	Inflammation	Injury	Emaciation	Strongyli	Decomposition. Bone-taint	Miscellaneous	
Cattle : Tongues ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
(exclud- Heads ...	63	33	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	145
ing Lungs ...	70	-	-	-	1	2	9	6	-	-	-	-	-	88
cows) Hearts ...	45	16	-	-	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	66
Diaphragms ...	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Stomachs ...	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Livers ...	21	-	-	-	43	16	1520	2	-	-	-	1	4	1607
Kidneys ...	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	7
Mesenteries ...	24	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	26
Spleens ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	1	14
Fat ..	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
Carcases ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Parts of ditto	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	14	-	-	10	-	30
Cows : Heads ...	88	7	24	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	124
Lungs ...	103	-	-	2	7	20	25	14	-	-	-	-	-	171
Hearts ...	82	11	-	2	5	7	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	112
Diaphragms ...	20	-	-	1	4	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	29
Stomachs ...	11	-	-	2	9	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	25
Livers ...	36	-	-	-	21	44	48	2	-	-	-	-	3	586
Kidneys ...	-	-	-	-	3	6	-	4	-	-	-	1	1	15
Mesenteries ...	32	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	36
Spleens ...	15	-	-	-	3	1	-	41	-	-	-	-	-	60
Udders ...	4	1	-	1	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	13
Fat ..	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	13
Carcases ...	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	8
Parts of ditto	9	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	6	-	-	2	1	19
Calves : Head ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lungs ...	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	6
Hearts ...	2	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Livers ..	2	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8
Carcases ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Parts of ditto	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3
Sheep : Heads ...	-	-	-	1	6	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	1	13
Lungs ...	-	-	-	1	3	2	-	-	-	2	1740	-	1	1749
Hearts ...	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	18	-	2	-	-	1	23
Kidneys ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	3
Intestines ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
Livers ...	-	-	-	1	4	3	1593	2	-	2	-	-	-	1605
Fat ..	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Carcases ...	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	-	-	12
Parts of ditto	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	7
Pigs : Heads ...	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	27
Lungs ...	7	-	-	-	1	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	5	33
Hearts ...	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	9
Intestines ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	11
Livers ...	3	-	-	-	1	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	14
Kidneys ...	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	12
Spleens ...	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Fat ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Mesenteries ...	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Carcases ...	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Parts of ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	5
TOTALS ...	712	72	73	19	142	124	3633	156	30	17	1740	17	43	6778

(ii) *Inspection of Other Foods.*

							<i>Weight</i>	
Food condemned included :							<i>lbs.</i>	<i>ozs.</i>
Canned Pudding	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	10
„ Juice	...	...	...	...	...	...	358	6
„ Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,029	10
„ Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,483	13
„ Soup	...	...	...	...	...	...	276	—
„ Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,656	9
„ Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	117	10
„ Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	266	8
„ Spaghetti	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	12
„ Macaroni	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
„ Fish and Meat Pastes	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	290	6
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	9
Sandwich Spreads	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8
Condiments and Pickles	...	...	...	...	...	...	138	2
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	205	—
Meat Pies	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	—
Hors D'oeuvres	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Sugar Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	12
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	...	136	7
Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	10
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,484	—
Fruit Spreads	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	6
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	47	4
Soft Drinks	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	14
Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,026	—
Biscuits, Confectionery, Cakes	...	...	...	...	...	...	112	—
Cake and Pudding Mixture	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	12
Jams, Preserves	...	...	...	...	...	...	441	—
Shell Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	418	—
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	—
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	...	450	—
Jelly	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
Soup Powder	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	12
Milk Powder	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	—
Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	8
Dried Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	—

(Total weight condemned : 9 tons 88½ lbs.)

(c) *Adulteration, etc.—Food and Drugs Act, 1938.*

The following is a record of the samples taken :—

					<i>Formal</i>		<i>Informal</i>	
					<i>No. of</i>	<i>Not</i>	<i>No. of</i>	<i>Not</i>
					<i>Samples</i>	<i>Genuine</i>	<i>Samples</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
Milk	...	...	...	...	50	7	3	2
Fish Paste	...	...	...	...	—	—	8	—
Meat Paste	...	...	...	...	—	—	7	—
Sausages and Sausage Meat	...	...	...	...	—	—	63	12
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	—	—	4	1
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	—	—	2	—
Ground Almonds	...	...	...	...	—	—	3	—
Ground Rice	...	...	...	...	—	—	3	—
Vinegar	...	...	...	...	—	—	4	—
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	50	7	97	15

The formal samples found adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity were as follows :

A sample of milk from a farm was found to be 22 per cent. deficient in fat. A visit was paid to the farm at the time of milking, the process was watched and further samples taken : two informal samples from the Friesian cows were 11 per cent. and 3 per cent. deficient in fat, but further samples from the bulk milk were genuine. The herd was a mixture of Friesian and Devon cows, and evidently the fat content of the milk from the Devon cows made up the deficiency of fat in the milk of the Friesian animals. The farmer was warned and advised about this.

A sample of milk taken at another farm was 15 per cent. deficient in fat : it was found that the milk was being filled into bottles without proper stirring of the churns. The farmer was warned and a subsequent sample proved genuine.

At another farm a sample of milk was 14 per cent. deficient in fat. In this case the whole herd consisted of Friesian cows, and it was found that formal samples from three different churns (each representing a group of cows) were deficient in fat to the extent of 12 per cent., 6 per cent., and 11 per cent. respectively. The milking was machine operated and it was impressed on the farmer that after machine-milking it is necessary to “strip” the cows : this was carried out and a subsequent sample was genuine.

A sample of milk from a retailer was 3 per cent. deficient in fat ; but before a further sample could be taken, the arrangements of the dairy were changed and a different supply of bottled milk is being obtained.

The informal samples found adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity were as follows :

The two samples of milk deficient in fat are those to which reference has been made above in the case of the farm with the mixed Friesian and Devon herd of cows.

A sample of ice-cream was 24 per cent. deficient in sugar (sucrose). The producer contended that the ice-cream was made to suit the taste of the customers, but was warned that action would be taken unless the commodity conformed to the prescribed standard. A subsequent sample was genuine.

Samples of sausages from twelve butchers showed deficiency in meat to the extent of 8, 36, 24, 6, 4, 8, 18, 28, 34, 6, 30 and 17 per cent. respectively. A warning was given in each case, and subsequent samples were genuine in ten: in one other case the business was closed before any further action could be taken, and in the twelfth case the sample was taken in the last week of December, and there was not time during the year under review to take a formal sample.

(d) *Ice-Cream.*

The Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Amendment Regulations, 1952.

These came into force on the 5th May, and allow a high temperature (175 deg. F.) short time (15 seconds) heat treatment—as contrasted with a longer time at a lower temperature (either 160 deg. F. for 10 minutes or 150 deg. F. for 30 minutes). This is somewhat similar to the provisions for pasteurising milk, but ice-cream is really an emulsion of varying viscosity and difficult to propel through metal tubes. The apparatus has therefore to be thermostatically controlled, and must be fitted with a positive displacement pump which shall serve to maintain the flow of the mixture during its retention at the prescribed temperature at an even rate, and also with a device which shall automatically divert the flow of any mixture which has not been raised to the prescribed temperature.

There is at present no installation of this type in the Borough.

The supervision and registration of premises where ice-cream is manufactured or sold have been carefully maintained: for ice-cream is an ideal medium for bacterial multiplication. The need cannot be over-emphasised for adequate sterilisation of all apparatus (and unless utensils are properly washed and cleaned first, they cannot be sterilised adequately), for the development of a “no-touch technique” (which means that hands should not be introduced into an ice-cream mix at any stage), and for the realisation of the greater danger if the hot-mix is not rapidly cooled with special apparatus (for any dangerous organisms introduced after heating have ideal conditions for multiplying during an inefficient cooling process).

There are now registered in the Borough 198 premises for the sale of ice-cream, and in 126 of these only the pre-packed article is sold. The number of manufacturers has been reduced to 4 ; of these, three use a hot mix and one a cold mix. Three manufacturers retail their own product, and there is only one premises registered solely for the storage of ice-cream.

Ice-cream (which has travelled some distance from its literal interpretation) has an astonishing and increasing popularity and seems often to be bought over the counter along with other food-stuffs. In this connexion the following table is interesting, which shows the types of business selling ice-cream :—

							<i>Wrapped</i>	<i>Bulk</i>
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	—
Greengrocers		...	...	...	...	...	8	—
Confectioners		...	...	...	...	...	42	4
Fishmongers		...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	—
Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
General Stores		...	...	...	...	...	5	3
Cafés	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	32
Restaurants and Snack Bars			...	...	...	...	5	23
Ice-cream Kiosks	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
Booksellers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	—
Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Amusement Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Vans	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
							<u>126</u>	<u>72</u>

It should be noticed that cinemas, clubs, hotels, inns, restaurants, theatres, music and concert halls are not required to be registered for the sale of ice-cream. It is the practice however, to ask for registration where ice-cream is sold for consumption off the premises.

The bacteriological examination of samples has been continued by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter : and following the original work carried out by the Medical Research Council, a simple modified methylene blue test has been suggested for the grading of ice-cream :

<i>Provisional Grade</i>	<i>Time taken to reduce methylene blue</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
1	4½ hours or more	Satisfactory
2	2½–4 hours	Fair
3	½–2 hours	Unsatisfactory
4	0	Very bad

The following table gives the results of the samples taken during the year :

	GRADES				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Cold mix	—	5	2	—	7
Hot mix	17	5	1	1	24
TOTAL	17	10	3	1	31

(e) *Food and Disease.*

The importance of food hygiene needs no emphasis in a town like Torquay, with its numerous hotels, boarding houses, restaurants and cafés ; and indeed throughout the country great emphasis has been placed upon this subject, because during recent years there had been an increase in the number of outbreaks of food poisoning. It has been shown that in about half the outbreaks in which the spread of infection was traced, the food responsible was associated with re-heated, made-up or processed meat dishes, such as stews, meat pies, brawn, rissoles, pressed beef, gravy and stock. The slow cooling and subsequent inadequate re-heating allow harmful organisms to multiply. Prevention of food poisoning spread by these foods depends on the standard of personal and kitchen hygiene, and on the methods of preparation ; and if all meat dishes were cooked shortly before they were to be eaten and served while still hot, the incidence of this sort of infection would be greatly reduced, while the palatability and flavour would be enhanced.

If it is not possible to cook the food immediately before it is served, then care must be taken to divide the food into small portions as soon as it is cooked, cool rapidly in special apparatus after which it should be kept in a refrigerator at 4 deg. C. until required. If it has to be reheated, this should be rapid and the food brought to boiling point immediately before it is used.

All food poisoning is to a great extent preventable ; and much can be done by the application of simple but important hygiene measures, in thorough washing of the hands before preparing food and always after using the toilet ; adequate covering for cuts and sores on the hands and arms to prevent infected matter being transferred to the food ; the covering of food and protection from flies, dust, coughs and sneezes ; lifting otherwise than by hand wherever practicable ; the elimination of rodents and insect pests—all these are essential factors.

Scrupulous personal hygiene is the great safeguard, simple yet most effective, which every food handler must observe ; and the inculcation of this into the young entrants to the catering trade is all important, for these, the future staff, should be most easily influenced. But all staff can be encouraged in well-doing if the premises and equipment are adequate ; and there is no doubt that the fitting of a washbasin with hot and cold water into every convenience would be a tremendous help. Indeed, architects and builders could do a great service if they would consider the convenience and washbasin to be an integral unit which should not be split up, and make the compartment large enough to accommodate both ; for it is hoped that, in future legislation governing the food trades, the wash-basin will be made compulsory. The practice in a disquieteningly large number of cases is to use the kitchen sink for handwashing ; and frequently there is some article of food being prepared in the sink, or crockery may be stacked for washing. Moreover in some cases hot water may only be available after boiling a kettle on a gas ring ; and this delay does not encourage the reluctant to wash.

Every effort is being made to raise the standards of hygiene and to reduce to a minimum the risks of illness. In Torquay, the measures to which reference has been made in previous reports have been continued, including special talks with films to catering organisations : and in this, active assistance is being given by the Hotels Association which arranges such meetings of groups of employees in a section of the town in one of the large Hotels in the area.

A code of requirements of premises, of equipment and of the standard of practice to be reached has been distributed to catering establishments ; and the byelaws are being enforced by your Sanitary Inspectors who are doing a considerable amount at the regular inspections by personal advice and informal discussion with both Management and Staff—which is perhaps the most effective way of improving standards. For there is no escape from the fact that it is upon the carefulness of each worker in the catering industry that both the safety of customers and the good name of the Town depend.

(f) *Food Poisoning Outbreaks.*

Details of any outbreaks are requested in the following tabular form :

<i>Total Number of Outbreaks</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Organisms or Other Agents responsible with Number of Outbreaks of Each</i>	<i>Foods involved with Number of Outbreaks of Each</i>
—	—	—	—	—

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. *Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).*

The incidence of infectious disease for the year is given in the subjoined table, which also includes the number of cases admitted to hospital and the number of deaths :

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	53	28	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Measles	19	6	—
Whooping Cough	12	6	—
Enteric Fevers	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Pneumonia	13	—	—
Erysipelas	8	3	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :—			
Paralytic	1	1	—
Non-paralytic	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—
Dysentery	12	9	—
Malaria (contracted abroad)	—	—	—
Typhus Fever (contracted abroad)	—	—	—

Scarlet Fever.

The incidence was somewhat higher than during the past two years ; but the type remained mild. The notification rate was 1.08 per 1,000 population compared with a rate of 1.53 for England and Wales, and 1.75 for the large towns.

Diphtheria.

It is gratifying to be able to record that 1952 was the sixth successive year during which there was not a single case of diphtheria.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

The disease showed a higher incidence throughout England and Wales in 1952 than in the preceding year, and the notification rate for paralytic cases for England and Wales was 0.06 per 1,000 population and for non-paralytic cases 0.03 ; the corresponding figures for 1951 were 0.03 and 0.02. In Torquay only one case (a non-resident) was notified during 1952.

Infectious Disease on Aircraft.

The provision in Part VI (Sanitary Documents) of the International Sanitary Regulations adopted by the Fourth World Health Assembly in 1951, operated from 1st October, 1952; and it is now no longer required for a personal declaration of origin and health from passengers arriving by air. Without the personal declaration there will be no record of the addresses in this Country to which passengers coming by air have proceeded. If such a person is shortly afterwards found or suspected to be suffering from a dangerous infectious disease like smallpox, it may be difficult to trace contacts who were in the same aircraft. The Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations have been amended accordingly; and measures are now laid down defining the action to be taken by a Medical Officer of Health if a case of infectious disease arises.

3. *Tuberculosis.*

Particulars of any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk Trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).

No action was required.

4. *Tuberculosis.*

The new Tuberculosis Regulations came into force on 1st May and cancelled the previous Regulations of 1930. The alterations were mainly administrative, and the changes were required owing to the different procedure of the National Health Service Act. It is no longer necessary for a District Medical Officer of Health to keep a Tuberculosis Register, nor to send in weekly or quarterly returns to the County Medical Officer of Health (for copies of notifications are now forwarded within 24 hours); and notifications of admissions and discharges from Hospitals are not required.

There is no change in the duties of Medical Practitioners to notify cases of tuberculosis to the local Medical Officer of Health.

In accordance with these Regulations, a copy was sent to every Doctor practising in the Borough.

New cases and mortality during 1952.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1952 are given in the following table :

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 4 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 14 years ...	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
15 to 24 years ...	8	4	—	—	—	2	—	—
25 to 34 years ...	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
35 to 44 years ...	2	4	—	—	1	1	—	—
45 to 54 years ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
55 to 64 years ...	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1
65 and over ...	1	—	1	1	4	4	—	—
<i>Totals</i> ...	19	14	2	2	8	7	1	1

SECTION G

BOROUGH OF TORQUAY

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, 1952

The following report is the record of Port Health Administration for the year 1952, detailed in form and sequence in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health contained in Form Port 20 and Circular 33/52.

As a result of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952, the form and scope of the report have been revised, and the full details are required for the year under review ; subsequently this will only be necessary in 1955 and every five years, the intermediate year being covered by a shorter report in which certain sections (marked with an asterisk) need not be reported unless there is any change.

*SECTION 1—STAFF

TABLE A

<i>Name of Officer</i>	<i>Nature of Appointment</i>	<i>Date of Appointment</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>	<i>Any other appointments held</i>
J. V. A. SIMPSON	Medical Officer of Health.	1936	M.D. (LOND.), B.S. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. D.P.H. (CAMB.)	Medical Officer, Isolation Hospital.
G. J. LOVELESS	Chief Sanitary Inspector and Port Sanitary Inspector.	1946	C.R.S.I., CERT. INSP. MEAT AND FOOD R.S.I.	
A. THOMPSON	District Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Port Sanitary Inspector.	1925	C.R.S.I.	

CLERKS :—S. E. R. AUTHERS, Chief Clerk.
E. C. DOBLE.

(The work in connexion with Port Health Administration is carried out by the above members of the Public Health Staff, in the course of the general Public Health Administration of the Borough.)

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health :

St. Marychurch Town Hall, Tel. No. : Torquay 88204.
Torquay.

SECTION II—AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B

<i>Ships from</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Tonnage</i>	<i>Number Inspected</i>		<i>Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board</i>
			<i>By the Medical Officer of Health</i>	<i>By the Sanitary Inspector</i>	
Foreign Ports	13	1,035	3	13	—
Coastwise ...	856	13,048	4	98	—
TOTAL ...	869	14,083	7	111	—

SECTION III—CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C

PASSENGER TRAFFIC	<div> <div>Number of passengers INWARDS</div> <div>Number of passengers OUTWARDS</div> </div>	This is not a port approved under the Aliens Order, 1920.
CARGO TRAFFIC ...	<div>Principal IMPORTS. Cement, Timber, Slates.</div> <div>Principal EXPORTS. Bricks.</div>	
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrived in 1952 : London, Carlshaven, St. Malo, Marseilles, and general coastwise.		

SECTION IV—INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no inland barge traffic in the area.

*SECTION V—WATER SUPPLY

(1) *Source of supply for (a) the District, and (b) Shipping.*

(a) The water supply of the District is from an extensive upland surface gathering ground on Dartmoor of 4,814 acres ; there are four storage reservoirs with a capacity of 848 million gallons, which is equivalent to approximately seven months supply.

After storage the water is filtered, lime is added to raise the pH value, and the supply is chlorinated. There are six service reservoirs in the town, from which every house is supplied.

(b) The port is supplied by standpipes from the main town supply.

(2) *Reports of tests for contamination.*

Samples are taken every week from the service reservoirs in the Town, and additional samples are taken from taps in various places, and from the standpipes at the harbour.

During 1952, the number of samples taken was 96, of which 88 were satisfactory. Of these, two samples were taken at the harbour, both of which were satisfactory, i.e. number of organisms in 100 ml.=nil.

(3) *Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.*

These are flushed prior to use and inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector.

(4) *Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.*

There are no water boats.

SECTION VI—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

(1) *List of infected areas. (Regulation 6.)*

Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure in supplying it to those persons.

The list of infected ports and areas supplied from the Ministry of Health each week is noted at the Public Health Department and is then taken by the District Sanitary Inspector to the Customs Officer who retains it for the week ; when each new list is taken, the list for the previous week is returned to the Health Department.

(2) *Radio Messages.*

(a) *Arrangement for sending permission by radio, for ships to enter the District. (Regulation 13.)*

Arrangements are made with the Post Office for the transmission of Wireless messages, if required.

(b) *Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships, and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2)).*

These messages are received through the Post Office, and would in the first instance be to the Local Shipping Agents, thence to the Customs Officer and subsequently to the Medical Officer of Health.

- (3) *Notification otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14 (1) (b)). Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.*

Messages are received or sent by the Customs Officer communicating with the Coast Guard Station at Berry Head for signals either of flags or flash lamps in morse ; Berry Head commands the whole Bay for shipping.

Detailed notices on the Maritime Declaration of Health instruct Masters of vessels to fly the International signals as given in the Regulations. Any notifications to the Customs Officer are communicated at once to the Medical Officer of Health.

- (4) *Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30)—Situation of Stations, and any other standing directions issued under these Regulations.*

A quarantine buoy is placed 1,000 yards South-West out to sea from the end of Haldon Pier ; the buoy is painted yellow and black, and is lighted at night.

No standing directions have been issued.

- (5) *Arrangements for :—*

- (a) *Hospital accommodation for infectious cases (other than Smallpox—See Section VII).*

Cases of infectious disease, other than Smallpox, are admitted to the Torquay Isolation Hospital, which is the Hospital for the Torquay District Management Committee area.

- (b) *Surveillance and follow-up of contacts.*

Surveillance and following-up of contacts are undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors.

- (c) *Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other Articles.*

There is a Cleansing Station for persons at St. Marychurch Town Hall. Disinfection of any Quarters aboard ship is dealt with by the Sanitary Inspectors, and the disinfection of clothing and other articles takes place at the Isolation Hospital, where there is a modern Thresh Disinfector, together with facilities for articles which cannot be put through steam under pressure.

SECTION VII—SMALLPOX

- (1) *Name of Isolation Hospital to which Smallpox cases are sent from the District.*

Cases are sent to Upton Pyne Smallpox Hospital near Exeter, and the Medical Officer in charge is the Resident Physician of Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter, Dr. R. P. Boyd.

- (2) *Arrangement for transport of such cases to that Hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.*

The ambulance is arranged by telephone message to the Resident Physician at Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter, who states that the vehicle is supplied by the Exeter City Health Department and is staffed by the Hospital, and that all members of the crew are fully vaccinated.

- (3) *Names of Smallpox Consultants available.*

The Consultants available are :—

Dr. C. Seward of Exeter,
Dr. W. J. Laird of Exeter.

- (4) *Facilities for Laboratory diagnosis of Smallpox.*

Specimens for Laboratory diagnosis are sent to the Central Public Health Laboratory (Virus Reference), Colindale, Hendon, N.W.4.

*SECTION VIII—VENEREAL DISEASE

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seaman under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

Facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among seamen are available at the Torbay Hospital, Torquay, either daily or at the specified clinics for men on Wednesdays at 5.30 p.m.—7.30 p.m.

In-patient treatment is given at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter.

The personnel of all ships are circulated with leaflets informing them of the facilities.

SECTION IX—CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND
OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

TABLE D

Category	Disease	No. of cases during the year		No. of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports ...	—	—	—	—
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been dis- posed of before arrival	—	—	—	—
Cases landed from other ports	—	—	—	—

A short account should be given of the measures taken on the arrival by ship of (a) any case of smallpox, cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus, or relapsing fever included in Table D ; (b) any suspected case of any such disease.

N I L .

SECTION X—OBSERVATIONS OF THE OCCURRENCE
OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

N I L .

SECTION XI—MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS
INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

N I L .

SECTION XII—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

(1) *Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.*

Enquiries are made by the Sanitary Inspector from all Masters of vessels using the Port concerning the presence of rats, and, if present, of signs of unusual mortality among the rats. Owing to the small size of the vessels, and of the nature of the cargo carried, it is uncommon to find any evidence of rat infestation.

Systematic inspections are made of the ships and quays, with special reference to the presence of rat runs, excreta, damage to foodstuffs, etc.

(2) *Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.*

The examinations, if required at any time, will be made through the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter.

None has so far been required.

(3) *Arrangements in the District for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.*

Any ship requiring deratting is referred to Plymouth for the necessary measures, and the next port of call of the vessel is notified.

(4) *Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.*

This has not been required owing to the limited nature of shipping entering the port.

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

N I L .

TABLE F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

This table does not apply as Torquay is not an approved port under Article 52 of the International Sanitary Regulations.

SECTION XIII—INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G

Inspections and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections		Notices served		Result of serving notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
General ...	17	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	17			

***SECTION XIV—PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH)**
REGULATIONS, 1934 and 1948

Information respecting any Shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority stating whether they are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, liable to pollution. A report of any action taken, which should state whether any prohibited area has been prescribed, should be included.

There are no Shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority.

***SECTION XV—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS**

(Applicable only to ports approved for the landing of aliens)

This Section does not apply.

*** SECTION XVI—MISCELLANEOUS**

Arrangement for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

Torquay is not a port for passenger traffic, and it is only in very exceptional circumstances that this would arise.

In the case of infectious disease other than smallpox, plague, or typhus fever, the bodies would be removed with the usual precautions to the Borough Mortuary at St. Marychurch Town Hall, pending interment or cremation in the normal way.

For the more serious diseases, the arrangements for coffining, etc., would be carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department, who are vaccinated annually, and have protective clothing (obtained during the war) for insect-borne diseases.

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